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Third Annual Poetry Slam, "The Anthem," Comes to Cal Poly on May 27

Cal Poly's third annual poetry slam, "The Anthem – Words Will Change the World," is set for 7 to 10 p.m. May 27 at Chumash Auditorium on campus.

The event seeks to inspire those in attendance to use the power of their voice and their words to make a difference.

The Anthem, sponsored by the Cal Poly English Department and the College of Liberal Arts, is a competition involving six poets who will generate knowledge about the uniqueness of individuals and the cultures from which they come. They perform for two to four minutes on issues such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, identity, class, life, and love while being judged by four audience members chosen on the day of the event.

As the poets vocalize these topics, audience members can gain a sense of respect for themselves and others, in turn building a sense of community throughout the Cal Poly campus.

Derrick Brown, winner of the California Independent Book Critics' Award in 2004, will be the master of ceremonies. Six of the nation's top spoken word poets will compete this year: Last year's co-champions – Tara Hardy, a working-class queer femme poet from Seattle and Alvin Lau, the highest ranking Asian-American slam poet of all time – are returning. First-time participants Shira Erlichman, Chinaka Hodge, George Watsky and Poetri will also take the stage.

For additional details about the event, contact Sarah Suksiri at 408-421-2457 or ssuksiri@calpoly.edu, or Rachel Gellman at 408-472-7391 or rgellman@calpoly.edu.

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